

## RUSSIANS MAKING STAND ON DANUBE

Desperate Fighting at Gateway to the Rich Province of Bessarabia.

## TEUTONS MAKING GAINS

Czar's Troops Yield More Ground in Wallachia, but Attack in Carpathians.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—With their backs to the Danube, the Russian soldiers are making a desperate stand to hold the gateway to the rich province of Bessarabia. In a fierce battle, heights of the wooded northern Dobruja changed hands today.

The Germans, Turks and Bulgars took the offensive on the front from Danube to Bakhof. At first they made a dash for the Russians from heights near Bakhof and Balahanka. Then the Russians launched a strong counter attack and threw the Teutons from the heights. The battle for possession of the remainder still raged when Gen. Sakharoff made his report.

In Wallachia, across the Danube, the Teutons made slight progress, ousting the Russians from some of their advanced positions, which are outposts of the strong line of defense they hold there. Active fighting is general all along the front.

## New Attacks in Carpathians.

Again the Russians are attacking in the Carpathians, the scene of their greatest effort before the fall of Bucharest. The Russian official statement says the troops of the Czar fought their way up the snow clad slopes of some of the heights in the Dorna Watra region. According to Berlin, however, four Russian attacks on the important Mount Meste-Caneel in this same region were thrown back by Austrian troops. On the remainder of the Russian front only isolated fighting is reported. The German statement on the whole Russian front follows:

Front of Archduke Joseph.—Four Russian attacks, Meste-Caneel, on the eastern bank of the Golden Bistritza, broke down before the strong resistance of Austro-Hungarian battalions. Further south the enemy was driven back from some sentry positions.

Front of Field Marshal von Mackensen.—Great War, Meste-Caneel, was ejected from some rearward positions. Front of Prince Leopold.—Between Dink and Lake Narva the fighting increased considerably in violence at times. Attacks by Russian detachments northeast of Gudzinsk and south of Lake Narva were repulsed with heavy losses. On the Stokhild, north of Helms, the Russians tried in vain to capture from German Territorial troops ground which a few days ago had been incorporated into our position.

## Statement of Russians.

The Russian statement dealing with the Romanian operations and the front in Russia is as follows: On the left bank of the Danube, north of Buzeu, engagements took place with our advanced detachments. Between the Buzeu-Rimnic and the Ineu-Racovitz heights, fierce fighting continued, infantry detachments and artillery duels are proceeding. The enemy, about 10,000 men, strong in infantry and cavalry, is advancing on both sides of the Ineu-Racovitz heights, but is being held by our fire. On the Prilutsk front, the enemy has pressed back our advanced guard.

In the Dobruja the enemy assumed the offensive on the front from Danube to Bakhof. In the neighborhood of Balahanka and Bakhof, he succeeded in occupying a series of heights. The enemy was dislodged from several heights by our counter attack and for the domination of the rest of the battle in continuing. On the Black Sea one of our submarines sank, near the Bosphorus, a steamer and twelve sailing vessels.

In the direction of Ziochov, the enemy bombarded our positions in the region of the town of Garbusov and the village of Guklovoe. Our artillery repulsed several groups of infantry and cavalry which were moving north from the village of Prisova. Enemy attempts to cross the River Prutka, the left tributary of the Ziochov, in the region of the village of Ziochov, were checked by our fire. In the wooded Carpathians our detachments gained possession of the summit of the heights in the region south of the Kimpolung-Jacobin Railway.

## ROMANIAN BOOTY GREAT

Experts in Wake of Germans Gathered Up Oil and Grain.

A trained staff of 250 commercial experts, picked and equipped in advance to bring about an immediate and effective organization of the grain and oil resources of Rumania, followed the armies of the Central Powers into Bucharest, according to Tobias Kahane, a New York importer, who arrived here yesterday on the steamship Oscar II, from Copenhagen. Mr. Kahane was in Constantinople, Rumania's chief Black Sea port, when that city surrendered.

In the hope that the German advance would be delayed long enough to enable Russia to take away the major portion of the oil and grain all available stocks in the interior were shipped to Constantinople, he said. "The plans failed, however, and the Germans and Bulgarians found waiting them the supplies they were after, and they were faced the trouble of loading them for transportation, as hundreds of laden barges and ships fell into their hands. The oil wells near Ploesti, in central Rumania, were also saved to the Germans, and when I left, oil experts, equipped with modern machinery, were at work on them."

## KING GEORGE CONFERS HONORS.

Acts on the Recommendation of Retiring Prime Minister.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—In accordance with custom when there is a change in the Government the King has conferred honors on various persons recommended to him by the retiring Prime Minister, Lord Sandhurst, former Lord Chamberlain; Lewis Harcourt, former First Commissioner of Works; and Lord Cowdray, former Viscountess and Josephine Plater, former Postmaster-General. Arthur Dewart, former Recorder-General for Scotland; Sir Thomas Ross, member of Parliament; and Sir Edward Parry, director of the Manchester and Liverpool District Bank, are made barons. A number of knights and dames also have been conferred by the King. Mr. Harcourt in a letter to his constituents announcing his resignation from the House of Commons says that in his person the old family peerage will be revived. Mr. Dewart's promotion is said to be due to his agricultural experiments.

## WANT IRELAND FREED FROM ENGLAND'S RULE

Natives to Ask Separation at War Peace Parley, Says Mrs. Skeffington.

Methods used by the British in putting down the recent revolt in Dublin have strengthened in Ireland the demand for separation from England, according to Mrs. F. Sheehy Skeffington, wife of the Irish editor shot to death in Portobello barracks.

Many people there who believed that home rule would right Ireland's wrongs now are convinced that Ireland must be a separate nation. "Our great aim is to have the Irish question brought up in the international conference at the close of the war," Mrs. Skeffington said yesterday. "If the rights of Belgium and Poland as nations are to be considered, why should not those of Ireland? The English cannot pass it off by saying that the Irish problem is merely a personal quarrel within their own domain. The Irish have been fighting for nationality for 400 years. The fight will be renewed and continued. "No solution of the Irish question can be found by the new Government which will induce more Irish to fight for England. Not that we are pro-German. We are pro-Irish, with a leaning to the German catch phrase 'freedom of the seas,' because we know that only when the seas are free can Irish nationalism be achieved. Mrs. Skeffington will lecture in Carnegie Hall on January 6.

## RISE IN BRITISH WAR LOAN.

Stock Market in London Does \$10,000,000 Business.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The feature of the stock market today was a smart rise of 1/2 per cent. in the war loan, after a large business, estimated in some circles at around \$10,000,000. It requires a large order at the present time to move the price more than 1/2. The reason for the rise or the buoyancy of the market was not ascertainable, but it was attributed in part to the investment of year funds and in part to the same reason which caused the decline in war stocks in America.

French, Italian and Russian bonds also were marked up and the movement of the securities it would appear that information not available to general public is possessed in some quarters.

## WANT U. S. IN CHINA LOAN.

Foreign Governments Ask Cooperation in Reorganization.

PEKING, Dec. 21.—The Russian, Japanese, British and French legations have indicated to the Foreign Office and the Chinese Government their desire for American cooperation in the reorganization of \$50,000,000. The Chinese Government is becoming impatient of the delay in the part of the representatives of Great Britain, France, Russia and Japan in concluding the arrangements for the loan. These representatives state that the loan is being considered by the London agency.

## ENGLISH BOMB SHIPPING.

Successful Air Attacks Reported West of Kut-el-Amara.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The following official communication concerning the operations in Mesopotamia was issued tonight: During the night of Sunday British airplanes successfully bombed the enemy's rivercraft west of Kut-el-Amara, the Marjayah and W-shedday. Strong reinforcements were made to the west of the Shumran bend of the Tigris.

During the last few days the enemy's positions about Samarra and Kut and his shipping west of the latter place were heavily bombarded with satisfactory results. The bridge over the Hat River near its junction with the Tigris, was destroyed by our fire.

## GENERAL STAFF FOR ENTENTE.

French Deputy Wants Permanent Organization for Allies.

PARIS, Dec. 21.—The Senate held another long secret session today and adjourned until tomorrow. In the Chamber of Deputies M. Hennequin introduced a bill requesting the Government to study the formation of an international general staff, to serve as a permanent military organization of the Allied Governments. The cabinet hereafter will meet only twice weekly—Tuesdays and Fridays—was announced today. The other days of the week will be devoted to deliberations by the War Committee under the presidency of President Poincare, and by the Economic Council, presided over by M. Viviani, Minister of Justice.

## SEES RUSSIAN SOCIAL REVOLT.

Boris Schumaker of Jewish Relief Says High Prices Cause Suffering.

Boris Schumaker, who has been in Russia in behalf of the Jewish Relief Fund, returned yesterday by the Scandinavian-American liner Oscar II, predicted a social revolution in Russia after the war. The cost of living had mounted, sugar and meat being sold for about 62 cents a pound, almost all other things in proportion. The suffering among the poor, Jewish and Christian, was intense, many children dying for lack of proper nourishment.

## HUGE CONTRACTS FOR GERMANY

War Supplies Orders Run Into Millions of Marks.

BERLIN (By wireless), Dec. 21.—The Overseas News Agency today made public the following item: "The German Reichstag Committee for the Examination of Contracts for War Supplies has held its first meeting. The Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Karl Helfferich, in an address said the committee would have to deal with the millions of contracts running into thousands of millions of marks, which was a task of unheard of magnitude."

## THANKS SENT TO WILSON.

American Neutral Conference Pleased by Peace Move.

The American neutral conference sent last night to President Wilson a telegram thanking him for his efforts in behalf of peace. The message follows: "We desire to express our deep gratification that you have spoken for America on behalf of peace, and voice the hope that your efforts will speedily bear fruit in the restoration of international comity."

## SOMME DRIVE AIDED FRENCH AT VERDUN

Gen. Lacroix Tells How British Attacks Caused German Troop Movements.

## TEUTON LOSSES 700,000

Campaigns Pointed To as Fine Example of Team Work by Entente Allies.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun from London Times. LONDON, Dec. 21.—Gen. Lacroix, a well known French military authority, contributes to the Paris Temps a significant analysis of the effects of the Somme offensive on the French victories at Verdun. He says: "The direct results of the Somme offensive have been the loss of some 700,000 men, including 60,000 prisoners, to Germany. The indirect effect on the situation at Verdun is of the highest importance."

"At the end of June the situation at Verdun was still serious. On June 23 an attack of unprecedented violence brought the Germans to the Thiaumont Fleury line, from which they threatened Verdun immediately. They had then moved the price more than 1/2. The reason for the rise or the buoyancy of the market was not ascertainable, but it was attributed in part to the investment of year funds and in part to the same reason which caused the decline in war stocks in America."

French, Italian and Russian bonds also were marked up and the movement of the securities it would appear that information not available to general public is possessed in some quarters. Steel stocks were active in the American section. United States Steel fluctuated between 115 and 117 1/2, closing at about 116.

## GEN. CASTELNAU RETAINED.

Staff Chief of Staff Continued on Active List by Decree of Poincare.

PARIS, Dec. 21.—The official letter summoning Gen. Castelnau to the command of the army of the north and north-east was signed by Gen. Joffre as commander in chief of all the French armies. Gen. Castelnau, Gen. Joffre's chief of staff, having reached the age limit, has been retained on the active list by a special decree signed by President Poincare, which is preliminary to his appointment to the command of an army group.

## ESCAPING GERMAN KILLED.

Three From Siberian Prison Camp Executed in Mongolia.

PEKING, Dec. 21.—Three German army officers, a captain and two lieutenants who escaped from a Siberian prison camp have been killed in Mongolia by Russian soldiers, according to the Chinese Foreign Office. The officers were Capt. Max Graef of the Thirteenth Hussar Regiment, First Lieut. Ludwig von Werner of the Thirteenth Regiment Chasseur a Cheval and Lieut. Hann von Hoffmeister of the Twenty-eighth Regiment of Baden Dragoons and a former German Foreign Office attaché.

## PAUL ROCKWELL TAKES BRIDE.

American Marries Daughter of Former French Minister.

PARIS, Dec. 21.—Paul Rockwell, formerly of the Foreign Legion and brother of Kiffin Rockwell, the American aviator who was killed recently on the French front, was married yesterday to Jeanne Leguay, daughter of Georges Leguay, former Minister of Public Instruction. The ceremony was quiet, as both families are in mourning.

## ITALIANS FIRE HEAVY.

Bombardments of Particular Violence in the Adige Valley.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The report issued today by the Italian War Office says: On the Trentino front there were artillery bombardments of particular violence in the Adige Valley and on the Asiago plateau. On the Julian front the enemy's artillery was most active in the Pivato sector, on the Middle Isonzo, east of Verbovizza and against Gorizia and Monfalcone. Our batteries replied effectively and obtained direct hits on the enemy's billets at Comeno.

## Men's Double Breasted Overcoats

Greatly in demand this season for day or evening wear. Form-fitting. Flap pockets. Every line correct in every particular, but with enough style refinements to result in exclusive models.

30.00 to 55.00

## Men's Single Breasted Overcoats

Models with velvet collars. Look equally well downtown, "on the Avenue" or in the evening.

30.00 to 55.00

## Men's Chesterfield Overcoats

Conservative, yet distinctive models. For general wear, with the modern style refinement.

30.00 to 60.00

## Men's Great Coats and Ulsters

Walking or motoring length. Large Storm Collar. A demonstration that frost-proofness does not call for sacrifice of style or comfort.

30.00 to 45.00

## Men's Clothing Shop

A Separate Shop On the Street Level 8 West 38th Street

Franklin Simon & Co. Fifth Avenue—New York

## TRENCH RAIDS ON WEST FRONT FAIL

British Attack Germans Near Arras, but Finally Are Driven Out.

## FRENCH REPEL TEUTONS

Six Entente and Four German Aircraft Brought Down in Somme Fighting.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—British troops raided German trenches and German trenches on the front in France during the last twenty-four hours. In air battles, mostly over the Somme front, the Germans report having brought down six, the French four airplanes. French aviators made many raids upon German communication lines.

The British raid was made in force and after strong artillery preparation. The infantry got into advanced German trenches north of Arras after a hard struggle, but were driven out again soon after by a German counter attack. The German official statement today reports as follows on fighting in France: Army group of Crown Prince Rupprecht: North of Arras British detachments which, after strong artillery fire, had entered our most advanced trenches were ejected by a counter thrust.

On both sides of the Somme clear weather favored the activity of the artillery, which in some sectors increased to great violence. West of Villers Carboneul grenadiers of the Guard and East Prussian Jagers forced their way into a strong hostile position that had been destroyed by effective fire and returned, after blowing up some dugouts, to their own lines, as they had been ordered, bringing back with them four officers and twenty-six men as prisoners and one machine gun.

## French Patrols Repulsed.

In numerous air engagements and by our defensive fire the enemy in the Somme sector lost six aeroplanes. Army Group of the German Crown Prince: Artillery firing was for the most part unimportant nature, and there was no infantry activity of a major character. On the Aisne front several French patrols were repulsed. The French statement issued today follows:

The night passed in relative quiet along the entire front. On the Somme front four enemy aeroplanes have been brought down by French pilots. The first came to earth near Malancourt, the second in the environs of Clercy, the third near Devise, while the fourth was brought down at a point to the south of Pisy-le-Grand by Sub-Lieut. Nungesser. This makes twenty-one total number of enemy aeroplanes brought down by this aviator.

Another one of our pilots, pursuing a German machine, collided with his adversary. Both machines crashed to the ground by combining efforts at different points on a single front.

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## DANISH PARLIAMENT RATIFIES ISLANDS SALE

Upper House Passes the Proposition by Vote of 40 to 19.

COPENHAGEN, via London, Dec. 21.—Both houses of the Danish Parliament have approved the sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States. The Landsting, or Upper House, voted favorably upon the proposition today, 40 to 19. The bill for ratification of the treaty providing for the sale was adopted by the Folketing yesterday.

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Andrew Stakenman and Francis Carter, two of the delegates sent by the Danish West Indies to Denmark to urge the sale of the islands to the United States, arrived here yesterday on the steamship Oscar II. They said that it was on their report indicating the desire of the residents of the islands to become part of the United States that the approval of the sale by the plenipotentiaries in Denmark was brought about.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Approval by Denmark's Parliament of the treaty by which the United States will acquire the Danish West Indies opens the way for a prompt exchange of ratifications between the two Governments and consummation of negotiations that have been in progress intermittently since the civil war. The United States Senate has given its approval, and as soon as the formal exchanges have taken place the Administration will press measures in Congress appropriating the purchase price, \$25,000,000, and providing for the institution of an American territorial government on the islands.

## BLOCKS SENATE PEACE VOTE.

North Opposes Hitchcock Resolution Approving Wilson Note.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—An effort to have a Senate approve the action of the President in sending the peace notes to the belligerent Powers was made today by Senator Hitchcock (Democrat) of Nebraska, who introduced a resolution soon after the Senate met but was blocked in his efforts to secure immediate action upon it by the objections of Senator Borah.

The Hitchcock resolution says: "Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that this action of the President represents the overwhelming public sentiment and earnest desires of the people of the United States." The resolution was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. Opinion was divided in the Senate today over the wisdom of the President's action in sending the note. Warm approval was given by many Senators, notably Democratic, but among them Senator Jones, Republican. Other Senators declined to discuss the incident for publication, said they believed a mistake had been made and that it would not result from it but be deferred.

## RUSSIAN SHIP SUNK; 59 DIE.

The Skiffet Struck a Mine Off Coast of Finland.

COPENHAGEN (via London), Dec. 21.—The small Russian steamer Skiffet has been sunk by striking a mine near Abjo, Finland, according to a dispatch received here. Fifty-nine persons were killed. Only one person aboard the steamer was saved.

## Describes Russian Carpathian Fights

Correspondent of Berlin Paper Says Men and Ammunition Are Wasted.

BERLIN, by wireless, Dec. 21.—Comments in the wooded Carpathians, where the Russians delivered their counter attack in an effort to relieve the harassed Rumanian army, are described by the war correspondent of the Berlin Tageblatt, who says the Russian offensive there is a waste of men and ammunition in fruitless attacks. The correspondent says: "The culminating point of the Carpathian battle was in the mountain range above the Golden Hystrina, between Jacobeni and Dorna Watra, especially the height of Meste-Caneel. At noon the hostile artillery begins to lay a curtain of fire behind the trenches of the Austro-Hungarians, while simultaneously the first line of three divisions is launched for attack. They sail forth from the wood in the complete obscurity of the night. Within range of our artillery one wave of assaults after another breaks down."

## TRY TO SAVE RUMANIANS

Fierce Battle for Meste-Caneel Results in Repulse of the Czar's Forces.

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## NO U-BOAT WARNING IF SHIPS ARE ARMED

Continued from First Page.

Clarify the status of their officers and crew. Should this be done, and should neutral countries permit such ships to remain in port longer than the time allowed for a warship, a protest from the German Government would be likely, as Germany holds that such armed ships, merchant or passenger, are "auxiliary cruisers."

The American steamship Kansas, the first ship stopped by the German submarine U-53 in her short but memorable campaign off Nantucket on October 3, has struck a mine, according to a dispatch from Nantes, France. She was badly damaged in the blow and one hold was flooded. An effort is being made to remove part of the Kansas's cargo and take her to port.

The Kansas carried horses for France, as well as a general cargo. She left Boston with Capt. Forsyth in command on December 6 for St. Nazaire. She is owned by the America-Hawaiian Steamship Company of New York. Her gross tonnage is 7,915.

## WITNESS DESCRIBES COLUMBIAN SINKING

Massachusetts Man Writes of Ship Going Down With U. S. Flag Flying.

THE SUN has received a description of the torpedoing of the Columbian by an eyewitness. It was contained in a letter written by Charles J. Blakely of Brooklyn, Mass., from Cadix, Spain, to his mother in this country. The letter tells of meeting the U-49 on November 7. "The ship was so rough that the captain of the submarine could not board the ship, and finally he was forced to direct the Columbian to proceed, but to disregard their movements, which the wireless operator did not do by sending out a S. O. S. and the German got it and closed in again and stopped us by a shot and came aboard."

## SIX AMERICANS SAVED.

St. Ursula Reported Sunk by Submarine Without Warning.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—An official report to the State Department today from the American Consul at Malta said the British horse ship St. Ursula, bound from Salamina to Montreal in ballast, with six Americans in the crew, was sunk without warning by a torpedo from a submarine of unknown nationality on November 10.

Two officers reported seeing the wake of the submarine and its periscope, but not its flag. The survivors, including 25 Americans, were landed at Malta six hours afterward. Four men are missing. The State Department has ordered further investigation.

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Under the protection of darkness new attacking columns reach some destroyed parts of trenches, about which the fighting goes on during the whole night. Territorial and Honved regiments counter-attack after bit of the lost ground, although the enemy outnumber them three to one. At morning's dawn the whole terrain again is firmly in the hands of the defenders of Meste-Caneel, with the exception of 300 yards of trench. Toward evening strong Russian forces vainly deliver three attacks upon Mount Baranietz, called by the soldiers Bavarian Mountain.

Two days later the Russians attempt the conquest of a railroad tunnel at Meste-Caneel one kilometer in length. Our field guards are thrown back and, in the complete obscurity of the night, hand to hand fighting begins, the terrible scenes of which are illuminated at times by bursting hand grenades.

## HUNGARIANS ARE REPULSED.

"Driven from the tunnel the Russians again attack the whole district between the tunnel and Meste-Caneel Mountain and attempt to pierce our lines at any cost near the point of approach above the road through the pass. They are repulsed by the Austro-Hungarian artillery. One and a half Russian regiments make a thrust against our lines in the valley, but are brought to a standstill late at night and are driven by our outflanking counter attack to their original positions."

About 1 o'clock on the following morning the enemy delivers a surprise attack. Without artillery preparation they crawl up to our position at Meste-Caneel, but are discovered by the Hungarian guards and are repulsed by the allied defenders. During the night 125 prisoners are brought in. The combatants belong to eight different regiments, which shows that the Russian chief commander in this district had concentrated here his last reserves."

## The Style of Saks \$20 Overcoats